

## Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

As of October 1, 2010, GOCCP will begin administering the federal VOCA grant program. GOCCP and Department of Human Resources have been working side-by-side to ensure a smooth transition that will have minimal impact on stakeholders. In recent months, GOCCP and DHR held a series of meetings with sub-recipients and stakeholders to establish open and ongoing communications. GOCCP is especially aware of the importance of VOCA funding for traditionally underserved victims, including victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. GOCCP wants to assure stakeholders that our agency is committed to continuing to meet the needs of these populations.

### *Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment*

The Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment was created by an act of the General Assembly during the 2008 legislative session to study all aspects of capital punishment as it was currently and historically applied in Maryland. The Commission concluded that the administration of the VOCA grant program be transferred from the Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR) to the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP), citing the following reasons:

- GOCCP is the State Administering Agency for a variety of other federally funded grant programs.
- GOCCP has a close working relationship with victim service providers through its work with the STOP Violence Against Women Act program & the Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) grant program.
- GOCCP has the automation and grants infrastructure to effectively administer the VOCA program.
- GOCCP can serve as the statewide clearinghouse for information and best practices relating to crime victims.
- Moving VOCA to GOCCP is a natural fit as the position of state Victim Services Coordinator resides within GOCCP.

The Commission's recommendations were included in the Death Penalty Bill passed in 2008. The law slated GOCCP to begin administering VOCA effective October 1, 2010.



### *Additional Resources:*

[www.goccp.maryland.gov](http://www.goccp.maryland.gov)

[www.governor.maryland.gov](http://www.governor.maryland.gov)

[www.dhr.state.md.us](http://www.dhr.state.md.us)

[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund)

*Updated May 2010*

### *Important Dates in 2010*

<b>May 21</b>	NOFA posting	<b>July 21</b>	Hard copy applications due
<b>May 24 &amp; 25</b>	Technical Assistance sessions to be held at MDOT	<b>September</b>	Awards issued
<b>July 15</b>	Electronic applications due	<b>October 1</b>	Official transfer of program & program start dates

To learn more about the Victims of Crime Act and the transition process, please contact Kimberly Herndon (GOCCP) at [kimberly@goccp-state-md.org](mailto:kimberly@goccp-state-md.org) or 410.821.2867.



# Fact Sheet

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

## Frequently Asked Questions

**GOCCP currently honors quarterly requests for reimbursement. Will that be the case for VOCA?**

*GOCCP prefers that sub-recipients request funds on a quarterly basis. However, it will honor requests for monthly reimbursement for non-profit agencies.*

**Will sub-recipients be required to submit receipts with their requests for reimbursements?**

*No, but sub-recipients will be required to retain receipts and have them available for inspection during site visits and audits.*

**Will GOCCP honor requests for payment advances?**

*No.*

**Are there specific expenses and costs that GOCCP will, as a matter of policy, disallow?**

*GOCCP will honor requests for reimbursement for any expenses allowed under OVC rules.*

**Will the grants from GOCCP be multi-year awards?**

*No. Grants will be awarded annually based on Federal grant awards made by OVC to Maryland.*

**Will the grant cycle remain the same under GOCCP?**

*VOCA grants will start on October 1 and end on September 30 of the following year.*

**Will GOCCP guarantee funding in future years?**

*No. GOCCP cannot guarantee future funding without knowing what the future allocations from OVC will be.*

**How frequently will GOCCP require Performance Measure reports and Progress Reports? How will those reports be submitted?**

*Quarterly; both online via the GMS and via hardcopy.*

**Will applications have to be submitted online through GOCCP's GMS?**

*Yes, and applicants will also be required to submit an original, signed application and 3 copies.*

**Will application amounts be capped?**

*No, but requests for increased funding over prior years will require justification.*

**Will new agencies be allowed to apply to GOCCP or will future funding opportunities be limited to those agencies currently being funded under VOCA?**

*New agencies will be allowed to apply. Any qualified agency or entity may apply in response to GOCCP's VOCA NOFA.*

**Will GOCCP do strategic planning for VOCA similar to what is done for VAWA?**

*Yes. GOCCP will establish ongoing communications with stakeholders to identify gaps in services, best practices, promising practices and other factors relevant to assisting crime victims.*

**Will GOCCP assume responsibility for the state funded Rape/Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence programs?**

*GOCCP is, at the present time, focused on ensuring a smooth transition of VOCA from DHR to GOCCP. The transfer of the state funded Rape/Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence programs will be considered in late 2010 only after the successful transfer of VOCA.*